

WELCOME!

EPA Public Meeting

October 27, 2004, 4 pm – 6 pm

Wellpinit, Washington

We Are...

- **Elly Hale** - EPA Project Manager for Midnite Mine
- **Debra Sherbina** – EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
- **Sylvia Kawabata** – EPA Manager, Site Assessment and Cleanup unit

Who are YOU?

- **Randy Connolly**
 - Superfund Coordinator, Spokane Tribe Natural Resources
- **Fred Kirschner, AESE, Inc.**
 - Spokane Tribe technical consultant
- **Shannon Work**
 - Attorney for the Spokane Tribe
- **Others?**
- Please sign in, and give information if you want to get our mailing

Tonight's Agenda

- Midnite Mine - Spilled Ore Removal
- Midnite Mine - Update on Cleanup Study
- Dawn Mill - Information from DOH
- Upper Columbia River - Update on Study
- Coeur d'Alene River - Update on Cleanup
- Spokane Tribe - Tribe's Environmental Monitoring

Haul Road Spilled Ore

- Concern about radiation from spilled ore
- Scanned Haul Route with Scanner Van
- Followed up with hand scans to separate ore from radiation present in buildings, rock outcrops
- Removal process: Ore and soil first removed to one foot depth. If soil is still above background radiation levels, an additional foot taken out. Hole backfilled with clean material.

What was done?

- Dawn contractors performed and monitored the work, EPA and Tribe oversaw
- Took 6 weeks, from 8/30 - 10/13
- 2600 cubic yards of material were removed
- 1800 cy of clean material to fill holes
- Bare areas will be seeded in winter
- Spokane Tribe collected soil samples

Where is material now?

- Placed on filter fabric at Midnite Mine
- Flat area surrounded by other waste rock and protore (lower grade ore)
- Surface water will not drain to other areas
- Material will be handled with overall cleanup

What is left to do?

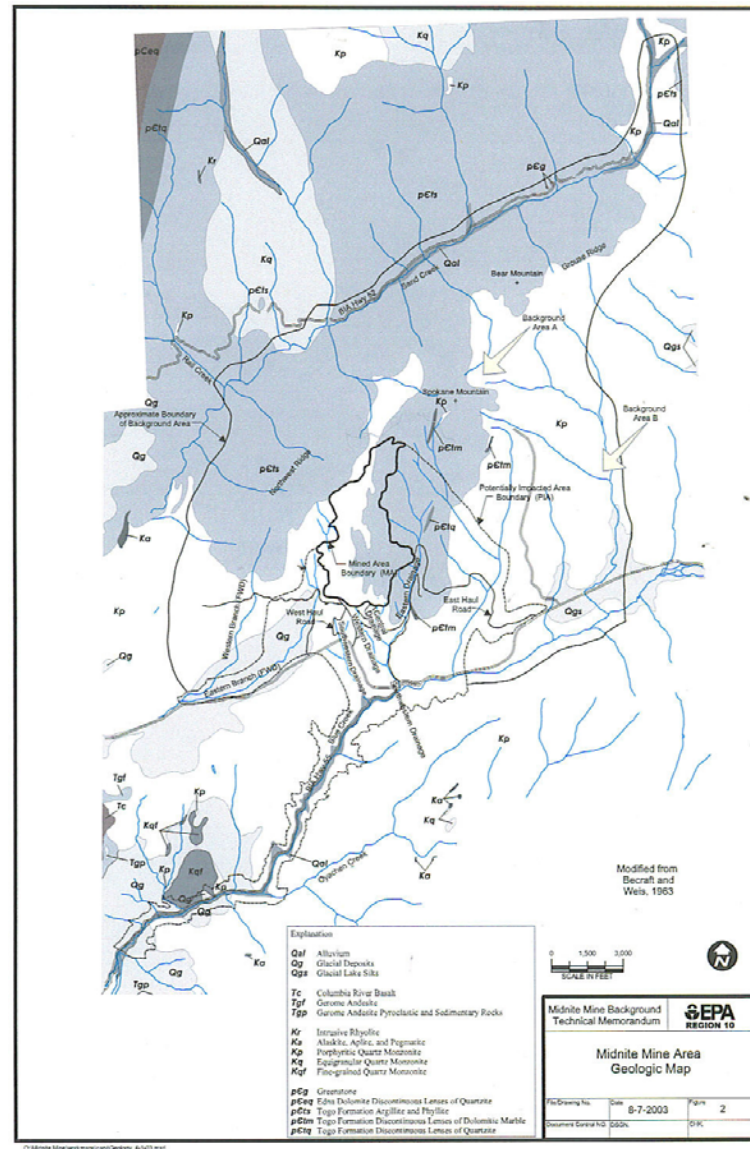
- Gravel – some driveways have gravel with elevated radiation levels, may be from Midnite Mine.
- Future road work or utilities work – could expose buried ore. Tribe and EPA need to discuss how to notify, assess and reporting.

Midnite Mine Study

- EPA study began in 1999
- Previous studies provided data
- EPA collected additional samples in work phased over 2 years
- Water, soil, sediment, radon gas, radiation
- Mined area, areas potentially affected by runoff, dust, groundwater flow.
- Areas nearby with similar geology but no mine

...EPA Study

- Compared data from site areas to data from background areas, to assess impacts
- Ecological risk assessment
- Human health risk assessment
- Study of cleanup alternatives
- Remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) report support cleanup decision.



Key Objectives

- Reduce human and ecological exposure to contaminants of concern in soil, surface water, ground water and sediments
- Reduce exposure? Or reduce contamination?
- What are acceptable levels?
 - Risk-based levels?
 - Regulatory standards?
 - Background?

Eight Cleanup Alternatives Being Considered

- One: NO ACTION
- Two B: Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Continued Existing Water Treatment
- Three C: Above-Grade Consolidation and Containment, Expanded Water Collection and Treatment
- Three D: Above Grade Consolidation and Containment, In Situ Groundwater and Pit Water Treatment.

...the rest

- Four D: Amendment and Consolidation in Pits, Water Treatment in Pit 3 (cover main waste rock pile in place)
- Four E: Consolidation in Pits, Pit Drain, Water Treatment (cover main waste rock pile in place)
- Five A: Complete Backfill of Pits, Pit Drain, Water Treatment
- New 5C: 5A but move waste rock from filled pits to open pits, include liner under and over pit backfill, and pipe treated water to Spokane Arm.

Where are we now?

- EPA and the Spokane Tribe are working to resolve key issues
- Future use of affected land - what makes sense?
- Can Tribe help with cleanup? Source of soil, place for disposal of material
- What will the cleanup requirements be – for soil, sediments, ground water, surface water, radon, and radiation?

When will we finish?

- Final report on contamination, risks, and cleanup options (RI/FS)
- Proposed Plan – our preferred alternative
- Tribal Government and Public comment
- Record of Decision
- Design – (engineering, plans, drawings)
- Cleanup, monitoring, reviews every 5 years

What can I do?

- Look at reports – Now in the library! **Wellpinit Tribal College and Community Library**
- Ask questions – toll free number **1-800-424-4372**, ask for Elly Hale
- Talk with family, friends, neighbors – which alternative seems best?
- Imagine – What should the future of Midnite Mine be?

Other Sites of Interest

- Dawn Mill, at Ford
- Upper Columbia River
- Coeur d'Alene Basin

DAWN MILL

- Cleanup – Dawn Mining Co. following UMTRCA law
- Washington DOH overseeing
- Mill buildings and equipment
- Mill tailings disposal area
- Contaminated soils
- Ground water contamination

Upper Columbia River

- Canada to Grand Coulee Dam
- Mining and other impacts on sediment
- EPA study in 2001 – limited sampling, site assessment
- Now starting RI/FS
- Working with Spokane Tribe on sample locations, to avoid impacts to historical and cultural areas

Sampling Planned April 2005

- EPA working on sampling plan with many reviewers, including Spokane Tribe
- 300 sediment samples (entire area)
- 20 sediment samples in river segment adjacent to Spokane Reservation
- 50 bioassays – to see if sediments are affecting animals that live in the mud

Coeur d'Alene Basin Site

- Mining impacts to watershed of Coeur d'Alene River – huge area
- Cleanup Decision in 2002
- 30 year plan of phased actions
- Focus: lead and arsenic in sediments
- Designing cleanups in recreation areas on the Spokane River – 11 areas may be cleaned up
- Starr Road and Island Complex: cleanup July 2005

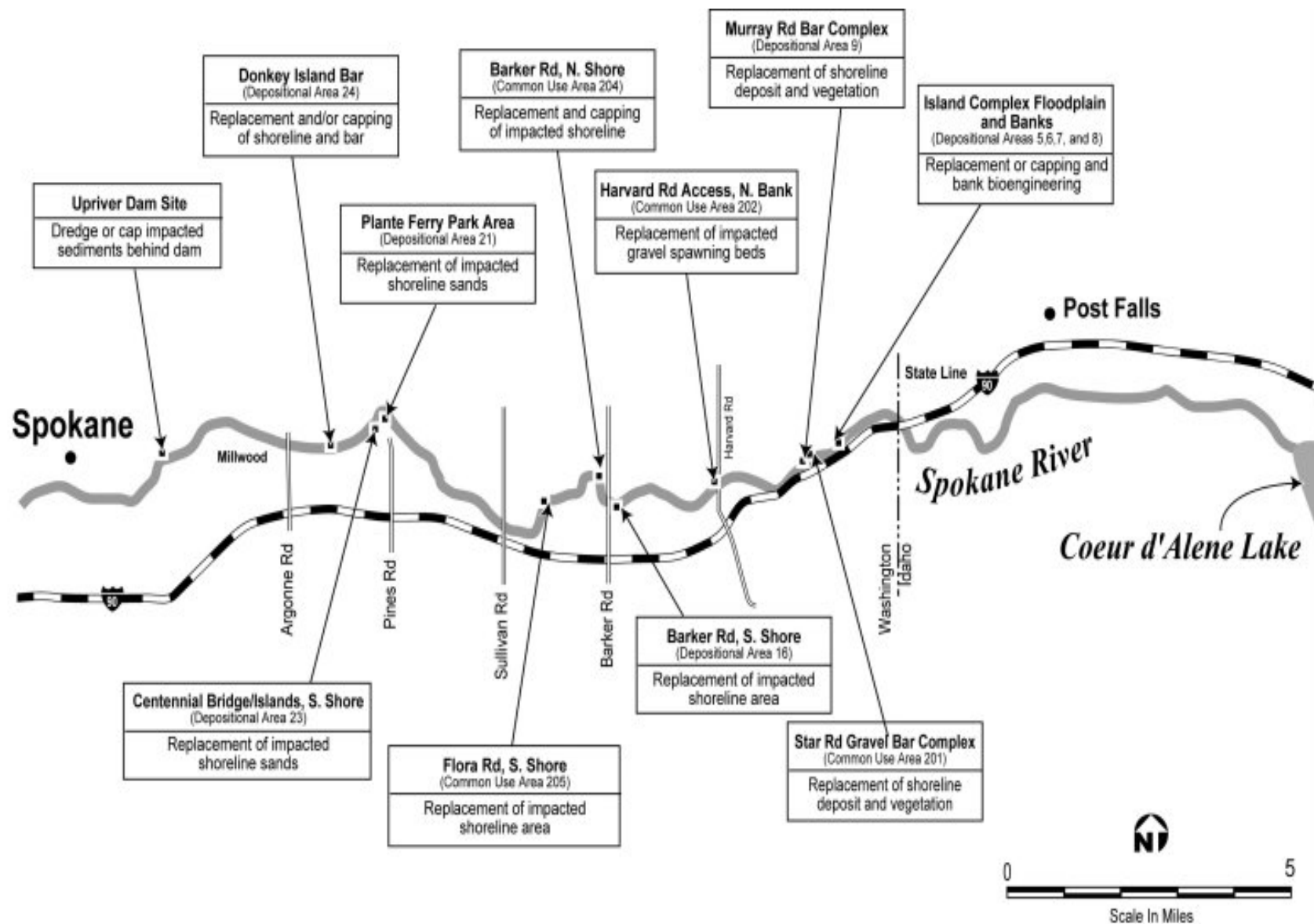


Figure 3

Spokane River Cleanup Actions

Dawn Mill

- Sampling to define soil cleanup areas
 - Soil cleanup in 2005
- Small scale groundwater cleanup test
 - Ethanol addition, followed by monitoring over a year.
- Continued evaporation of water from the evaporation pond - progress
- Final cover over tailings – may be 2 years ahead of 2009 schedule

Any questions?

Thank you for coming!